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NEWS from the
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Week of August 31, 1992

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The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Regional Directors for Public Affairs and the States in their regions:

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Week of August 31, 1992

WORKERS IN TEXAS, NORTH DAKOTA
GET $1 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID

WASHINGTON -- Nearly 200 workers in Texas and North Dakota are eligible for $1,123,760 in job training and re-employment services under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

Funds will provide services for workers throughout both states who have been laid off as a result of increased imports of foreign products in a number of industries. In Texas, services are primarily geared toward workers laid off from oil and gas exploration, drilling and production companies. TAA funds for North Dakota total $1,034,640; funds for North Dakota total $89,000.

Authorized by the Trade Act of 1974, the TAA program provides weekly cash readjustment allowances as well as training, relocation allowances and other assistance to eligible workers who have been laid off as a result of increased imports of foreign products.

The funds will be made available to each state's employment security agency, which is turn will administer benefits through its local offices.

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Week of August 31, 1992

MINNESOTA WORKERS RECEIVE HELP
FROM TRADE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Workers in Minnesota who have been laid off due to increased imports of foreign products will recieve $120,000 in job training and other assistance.

Funds are provided under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, authorized by the Trade Act of 1974. The program includes a variety of benefits and reemployment services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for training, a job search allowance, a relocation allowance and other reemployment services.

Additionally, weekly trade readjustment allowances (TRA) may be payable to eligible workers following their exhaustion of unemployment benefits. Usually TRA benefits will be paid only if an individual is enrolled in an approved training program.

The funds for Minnesota will provide continuing services to workers throughout the state, primarily for those laid off from Tonka Products in Saint Louis Park, Honeywell in Golden Vallley, and Cold Spring Granite in Cold Spring.

The funds are made available to the state employment security agency through the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

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Week of August 31, 1992

LABOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES $700,000 GRANT
FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON -- More than 200 dislocated workers in the state of Washington will receive job training and employment services under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

Authorized under Title III of JTPA, the funds will be used to assist timber and wood products workers displaced by continued closures and layoffs throughout the industry. Funds are designed to provide an array of services such as counseling, vocational, classroom and on-the-job training, job search and relocation assistance and health and child care.

The Olympic Private Industry Council will operate the project, which will serve workers in Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties.

The dislocated worker program is a comprehensive approach to assisting workers who have been, or are about to be, laid off due to technological change, foreign competition or the permanent closing of a plant or facility. Training is also provided for workers who are unlikely to return to their previous industry or occupation, who have little prospect for local employment or re-employment.

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Week of August 31, 1992

INDIANA WORKERS GET HELP
FROM LABOR DEPARTMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Nearly 50 workers in the state of Indiana are eligible for $300,000 in job training and re-employment services under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

Workers laid off from Otis Elevator in Bloomington, Fountain Manufacturing in Evansville and ABB Power and others throughout the state have been affected by increased imports of foreign products.

Authorized by the Trade Act of 1974, the TAA program provides weekly cash readjustment allowances as well as training, relocation allowances and other assistance to eligible workers laid off as a result of increased imports of foreign products.

The funds will be made available to the state employment security agency in Indiana, which in turn will administer the benefits through its local offices.

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August 31, 1992

Fillers From The U.S. Department Of Labor

The first workers to maintain a permanent organization were Philadelphia cordwainers in 1792. The organization, whose name is unknown, was formed to maintain or improve wages by collective bargaining. The group lasted less than one year but reappeared in 1794 as the Federal Society of Journeymen Cordwainers, which existed until 1806, **according to the U.S. Department of Labor's "Labor Firsts In America".**

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The first national labor organization of city federations was the National Trades' Union formed in New York City in 1834. Its 21,000 members sought "to advance the moral and intellectual condition and pecuniary interests of the laboring classes...and to unite and harmonize the effects of all productive classes of country." The organization lasted until 1837, **according to the U.S. Department of Labor's "Labor Firsts In America".**

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The first national labor organization encompassing several trades was the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States And Canada, which was formed in 1881 and in 1886 became the American Federation of Labor, **according to the U.S. Department of Labor's "Labor Firsts In America".**

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In 1894, federal legislation designating Labor Day as a national holiday was passed, **according to the U.S. Department of Labor's "Labor Firsts In America.**

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